

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/972,207

Examiner

Azizul Choudhury

Applicant(s)

BRADSHAW ET AL.

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2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/16/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-4, 6, 16 and 18-34.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


JASON CARDONE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Detailed Action

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given on September 5, 2006 by David W. Victor.

The following are the examiner's amendments to the claims received on August 16, 2006:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage area network (SAN), comprising: a plurality of storage devices; a plurality of digital data processors, each having a file system that effects access to one or more of the storage devices coupled to the SAN; and a process in communication with the digital data processors, wherein the process responds to a notification from one of the digital data processors requesting extension of the file system at the requesting digital data processor in accordance with a hierarchically defined file extension policy, wherein the hierarchically defined file extension policy indicates a hierarchical arrangement of groups of attributes for configuring the extension of the file system, and wherein the process adds storage to the file system of the requesting digital processor to implement the request for the extension of the file system

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according to the attributes in the at least one group of attributes associated with the requesting digital data processor.

16. (Currently Amended) A method operating in a storage area network (SAN) comprising one or more digital data processors and one or more storage devices, each having a file system that effects access to one or more of the storage devices, comprising: defining a hierarchically defined file extension policy, wherein the hierarchically defined file extension policy indicates a hierarchical arrangement of groups of attributes for configuring an extension of the file system; assigning the digital data processors to the groups of attributes; extending the file system of a digital data processor requesting an extension of the file system by adding storage to the file system of the requesting digital data processor according to the attributes in the at least one group of attributes associated with the requesting digital data processor.

29. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including a manager program in communication with one or more digital data processors and one or more storage devices in a Storage Area Network (SAN), each having a file system that effects access to one or more of the storage devices, wherein the manager program is capable of causing operations, the operations comprising: defining a hierarchically defined file extension policy, wherein the hierarchically defined file extension policy indicates a hierarchical arrangement of groups of attributes for configuring an extension of the file system; assigning the digital data processors to the groups of attributes; and extending

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the file system of a digital data processor requesting an extension of the file system by adding storage to the file system of the requesting digital data processor according to the attributes in the group of attributes associated with the requesting digital data processor.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6, 16 and 18-34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The claimed invention extends a file system in a SAN with a hierarchically defined file extension policy indicating a hierarchical arrangement of groups of attributes for configuring the extension of the file system. No prior art could be found to teach the extension of a file system in a SAN with a hierarchically defined file extension policy.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER